

**9th South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC) Meeting
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, (10-11 March 2009)**

Working Paper
Item 7
France

**Capacity Building
Chair Report**

Actions to be taken: see section 6.

Attachment: CBSC procedures 1 and 2.

1. Background

Capacity building has been identified as one major issue in the SWPHC Region. Three types of activities are related to that issue:

- liaison with regional organization and national authorities to raise awareness of the importance of hydrographic services and support the development of hydrographic capabilities;

- assessment studies and technical visits to, identify, develop and monitor assistance projects;

- participation in the IHO Capacity Building Committee (now a Sub-Committee reporting to the Inter-Regional Cooperation Committee - IRCC) to provide input from the Region to the Capacity Building Work Programme (CBWP).

2. Liaison with regional organization and national authorities

The main event since the 8th SWPHC meeting was the organization of a seminar on raising awareness of the importance of hydrography in South Pacific Island States which was conducted in Fiji between 20 and 23 October 2008. The seminar was supported by IMO, as part of the IMO technical cooperation programme in the South Pacific, by IHO and by France. It was conducted by a Director of the IHB assisted by two experts from France and Chile. The attendees from 11 Pacific Island States (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federal States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu) represented various levels of maritime or related administrations.

A one-day technical workshop with similar aims is organized in conjunction with the 9th SWPHC meeting. Invitation to attend has been sent out (ref. SWPHC CL 01/2009 of 19 January 2009). An allocation of 15 000 € has been set aside in the 2009 CBWP to support participation in that meeting.

Contacts with the regional organizations - Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), Pacific Islands Maritime Association (PacMA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) have been sporadic with almost no feedback from SWPHC correspondences. No SWPHC representative could attend the

Attempts to secure SWPHC representation at the 37th annual session of SOPAC in Tuvalu (21- 30 October 2008) failed because it conflicted with the IMO-IHO seminar in Fiji. Lack of visibility on the schedule of PacMA meetings in 2009 prevented from coordinating with the schedule of the 9th SWPHC meeting. The SPC secretariat informed PNG that neither SPC Regional Maritime Programme (RMP) nor PacMA Executive Committee will be represented at the 9th SWPHC meeting. The implementation of decision 5 of the 8th SWPHC meeting about the participation in PacMA remains standing.

On a more positive side, it is worth noting that *south-pacific.travel* (formerly the South Pacific Tourism Organisation - SPTO) has put together a « South Pacific Cruise Ship Strategy » which identifies four « beacons ». Beacon II focuses on improving navigational charts, having accurate hydrographic charts and investing in landing infrastructure. A representative of that organization has been invited to the 9th SWPHC meeting.

3. Assessment studies and technical visits

Two technical visits to PNG and Fiji were planned in the 2008 CBWP. After discussion at the 6th CBC meeting, it was agreed that the relevant resources would support attendance to the regional meetings mentioned in § 2 above. Technical visits to SWPHC Island States are included in the 2009 CBWP with an allocation of 10 000 €.

The only known outstanding request for technical visits is the request from Fiji for a chart expert to carry out a review of the chart production system. The specific requirements for this visit and the implementation plan will be discussed during the 9th SWPHC meeting. The UK has been earmarked as one potential source of advice.

4. CB Work Programme and Procedures

The IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC - formerly CBC) has been working since 2003 to provide support and partial funding to projects submitted by the IHO Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) which, once they have been endorsed by the Sub-Committee at its annual meeting, are included in the IHO Annual Work Programme. Australia, France, UK and USA are active members of CBSC.

The effectiveness of this important function of CBSC is highly dependent on the RHC's analysis and prioritization of capacity building needs in their areas. The whole process benefits from a good liaison between the CBSC and the RHCs and thorough discussions on Capacity Building (CB) at their meetings. The CBSC expects proposals for CB assistance to have been assessed critically by the RHC.

CBSC agreed that it was essential to establish procedures to assess the requests for CB support at different stages, involving the RHCs, the IHB and the CBSC. These procedures are :

- Procedure 1: “Procedure and model for submitting a request for support to the CBSC”.
- Procedure 2: “Procedure to be followed by RHCs before submitting requests for support to the CBSC”

- Procedure 3: “Review process to be followed by the IHB, prior to including the request in the Draft Management Plan”.
- Procedure 4: “CBSC evaluation procedure of submissions made by RHCs”.
- Procedure 5: “Procedure for performance assessment”. This includes the study and development of Tables of Performance Indicators.

The text of the first two procedures has already been approved by the former CBC, while work continues with the other three procedures. Procedures 1 and 2 are attached to this report for the information of SWPHC members and observers. **Comments, if any, should be provided to the SWPHC Chair by 1st March 2009.**

The three remaining procedures are being finalized by the CBSC; the draft version is available under “Miscellaneous - Working Documents” of the CBSC page of the IHIO web site¹.

The 2009 CBWP is contained in Programme 2 in the IHO WP approved by IHO Member States, the final text of which was circulated with IHO CL97/2008, dated 25 November 2008. SWPHC items are indicated in section 1 and 3 above. The 7th CBSC meeting to be held in Seoul (Korea) from 11 to 13 May 2009 will review the 2009 CBWP and draft the 2010 CBWP.

SWPHC Members and Associate Members that have specific requests for 2009 and 2010 are kindly invited to formulate them using the submission form included in the second part of procedure 1. The submissions will be collated and discussed during the 9th SWPHC meeting in accordance with procedure 2 and then sent to the CBSC Chair who set the deadline on **1st April 2009**. Nations such as Fiji and PNG that have already requested specific support are kindly invited to update their requests using the same form.

At its 17th session, the International Hydrographic Conference agreed to “*ask the CBC, in consultation with RHCs, to consider the part-time allocation of personnel to act as Regional Staff Officers to assist those Chairmen of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) who have limited human resources with which to sustain the capacity building effort in their regions. It is suggested that the priorities for provision of such a post should be EAtHC, MACHC, NIOHC, SAIHC and SWPHC.*” Following consultation with RHC Chairs and lengthy discussions, the CBC proposed to adopt a flexible approach through the insertion of a new paragraph 2 bis under the Administrative Resolution (AR) T 1.3 - Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC). The proposal was submitted to IHO Member States in CL 51/2008 of 18 June 2008. The final text was circulated in CL 69/2008 of 4 September 2008 and reads as follows:

2 bis.- Where Capacity Building is required in a region, RHCs are recommended to establish an internal body to deal with CB matters and to designate a focal point to ensure continuity in the CB process. This part-time allocation to assist RHCs should come primarily and ideally from an HO within the region. If that is not possible then the RHC might agree to request support from another RHC or an HO that might wish to take that responsibility.

¹ http://www.iho-ohi.net/mtg_docs/com_wg/CBC/CBC_Misc/PROC345.pdf.

These regional contact points, the responsibilities of which should be given directly and in detail by the RHC concerned, shall have the support of the RHCs; shall be nominated having in mind the importance of continuity; shall be in permanent contact with the corresponding RHC Chairman as well as with the CBC Chairman. Ideally should be a CBC member with access to RHC meetings.

In the absence of any other viable alternative and despite its limited human resources availability a request of support could be requested to the IHB.

The 9th SWPHC meeting will need to consider the implementation of these provisions.

5. Miscellaneous

PNG expressed an interest in participating in the IHO multibeam course organized in Goa (India) in November 2008 (ref. IHO CL 38/2008 of 21 April 2008). This did not materialize due to conflicting commitments for the prospective candidate who announced his resignation by email on 3 August 2008.

6. Actions to be taken

SWPHC Members: provide, to the SWPHC Chair², comments, if any, on CBSC procedures 1 and 2 not later than 1st March 2009.

SWPHC Members and Associate Members: table at the 9th SWPHC meeting requests for CBSC support to be considered under the 2009 and 2010 CBWP, using the submission form included in the second part of procedure 1.

SWPHC Members and Associate Members: table at the 9th SWPHC meeting their views on implementing the new paragraph 2bis of IHO AR T 1.3.

² Attention : Ingénieur Gwladys Theuillon, secretary of the 9th SWPHC meeting - e-mail : gwladys.theuillon@shom.fr - fax: +33 1 41 74 94 25.